

# INDEPENDENT PRESS

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## NJDTE announces new director of Young Dancers Program

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NJDTE is thrilled to announce Lisa Rumbauskas, NJDTE alumna and faculty member, as the NJDTE Director of the Young Dancers Program.

“I am beyond excited to be chosen as the Director of NJDTE's Young Dancers Program. It is truly a joy and an honor to work for such an inspiring company,” Rumbauskas said.

This new position is the latest chapter in Rumbauskas' lifelong affiliation with NJDTE. After joining the company at age 7, she had the privilege of working with renowned teachers and choreographers including Nancy Turano, Rosemary Sabovick-Bleich, Pedro Ruiz, Eduardo Vilaro, Lynn Glauber, Jodi Melnick and many others. Rumbauskas went on to study at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and at the same time she began working as a rehearsal assistant for NJDTE under the artistic direction of Nancy Turano. During her prolific professional career, Rumbauskas performed with the national tour of the Broadway show *Swing!* and at many theaters around the country, including The Metropolitan Opera, Radio City Music Hall, The Fulton Opera House, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Houston's Theater Under the Stars and many more. Last year, NJDTE offered Rumbauskas a scholarship to study the American Ballet Theatre curriculum to become an ABT Certified Teacher.

“Lisa was always a ‘diamond’ in my eyes, even as a young dancer. It has been a solid and natural progression towards her new position of Director. I did not give this position to her; she earned it,” Turano said proudly.

In 2011, Turano approached Rumbauskas with the idea of creating a Young Dancers Program. As Rumbauskas explained, “We first started with technique classes and had a small group of children



Lisa Rumbauskas, YDP Director

studying with us. The program is now thriving with two levels and plans to expand in the future to find more diamonds!”

“Lisa understands the quality of dancer NJDTE seeks. She is selecting and

producing a wonderful group of talented young dancers that are now beginning to feed into and strengthen our most advanced levels at NJDTE,” Turano added.

NJDTE's high level of pre-professionalism begins with the Young Dancers Program. YDP sets the foundation for correct technique, focusing on alignment, coordination, musicality, artistry and terminology. Once these ballet fundamentals are established in YDP, the dancer is introduced to modern and contemporary techniques, as well as an array of eclectic repertory. NJDTE dancers learn and understand the tools of the creative process and professional etiquette in the studio. After dancers graduate, NJDTE continues to foster their career development by offering employment and professional networking opportunities.

“It has always been a dream of mine that one day NJDTE would be the home for successful alumni as teachers, staff, choreographers and rehearsal assistants. Lisa is an example of a full-circle success story for NJDTE. We are certain that Lisa will continue to develop the Young Dancers Program and to be a very important link to the larger vision of NJDTE in dance education as we broaden our reach for talented dancers from New Jersey,” Turano said.